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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/044,113

01/09/2002

Ronald L. Ream

112703-201

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7590

04/14/2009

K&L Gates LLP

P.O. Box 1135

CHICAGO, IL 60690

EXAMINER

AHMED, HASAN SYED

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1615

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/14/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/044,113	Applicant(s) REAM ET AL.	
	Examiner HASAN S. AHMED	Art Unit 1615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 January 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

- Receipt is acknowledged of applicants' appeal brief, filed on 6 January 2009.
- After further consideration, the finality of the last Office action is withdrawn.

* * * * *

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 8, 14, 15, 16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,162,177 ("Stupak").

Stupak discloses a solid dosage form (see col. 1, lines 6-10) comprising:

- the consumable tableted center, wherein the consumable tableted center is not a chewing gum of instant claims 8 and 16 (see col. 2, lines 16-49 for description of consumable center and col. 3, lines 15-30 for description of tableting process);
- the coating comprising a medicament, wherein said coating surrounds the consumable center, the coating comprising at least 50% by weight of the product (see example 1); and
- the compressible excipients of instant claims 14 and 18 (see col. 2, lines 16-49).

The coating disclosed by Stupak does not have a shellac layer, thus meeting the limitation of instant claim 15.

* * * * *

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 8, 10-13, 16, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,162,177 ("Stupak") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,060,078 ("Lee").

Stupak is discussed above.

Stupak differs from the instant application in that it does not disclose the claimed taste masking agents.

Lee teaches a chewable tablet (see col. 1, lines 6-12) comprising:

- the outer layer taste masking agent (e.g. dextrose and aspartame) of instant claims 10 and 19 (see col. 2, line 46);
- the dextrose of instant claim 11 (see col. 2, line 46); and
- the aspartame of instant claims 13 and 20.

While Lee does not explicitly teach the percentages of instant claims 12, 13, 19, and 20, it is the position of the Examiner that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to determine suitable

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percentages through routine or manipulative experimentation to obtain the best possible results, as these are variable parameters attainable within the art.

Moreover, generally, differences in concentration will not support the patentability of subject matter encompassed by the prior art unless there is evidence indicating such concentration is critical. “[W]here the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation.” *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 456; 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955). Applicants have not demonstrated any unexpected or unusual results, which accrue from the instant percentage ranges.

Lee explains that sugars such as dextrose and aspartame may comprise 50-90 weight % by total weight of the ingredients (see col. 2, lines 47-48). Furthermore, in example 1, aspartame comprises 0.5% of the formulation.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add a taste masking agent to the coating of a chewable pharmaceutical formulation, as taught by Stupak in view of Lee. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to add a taste masking agent because it makes the chewable formulation more palatable to the consumer.

*

2. Claims 8, 9, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,162,177 (“Stupak”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,126,151 (“Bodor”).

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Stupak is discussed above.

Stupak explains that adding a medicament to the coating results in immediate release of the medicament (see col. 1, line 56).

Stupak differs from the instant application in that it does not disclose the medicaments of instant claims 9 and 17. However, Bodor teaches a coating composition of an oral dosage form (see col. 10, line 6) comprising, *e.g.*, antihistamines (see col. 10, line 32).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add a medicament such as an antihistamine to the coating of an oral dosage form, as taught by Stupak in view of Bodor. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to add a medicament to the coating because it results in immediate release of the medicament, as explained by Stupak (see above).

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Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HASAN S. AHMED whose telephone number is (571)272-4792. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael P. Woodward can be reached on (571)272-8373. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/H. S. A./
Examiner, Art Unit 1615

/MP WOODWARD/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1615